

**Statement of Reed Darrow Rubinstein
Nominee to be Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State
Submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
For March 25, 2025, Nominations Hearing**

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and members of the Committee:

It is an honor of a lifetime to appear before you as President Donald J. Trump's nominee to serve as Legal Adviser of the Department of State. I am humbled and grateful for the confidence and trust that the President and Secretary of State Rubio have shown me. I will work relentlessly to help them make America safe, strong, and prosperous again. Thank you as well to the Members and staff of this Committee. I deeply appreciate the time you have made available to me. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with you.

Throughout my career, I have had the great good fortune to work with and learn from accomplished men and women of great moral strength, high character, and a deep commitment to our Nation, our citizens, and our Constitution. Thank you to my many friends, colleagues, and teachers.

Finally, thank you to my dear family—my wife, our children, three sons and three daughters-in-law, our seven grandchildren, and my siblings and their spouses. I wish to especially acknowledge my mother; she and her twin sister, natives of Flint, Michigan, just turned 89 three days ago, and both are still going strong. They prove that Flint, an American manufacturing powerhouse for decades, knew how to make extraordinary things that last.

I am incredibly blessed.

If confirmed, I would be privileged to lead more than 300 lawyers and staff in the Office of the Legal Adviser. These great professionals are widely acknowledged as the best international lawyers in the world.

Edwin D. Williamson, who served with great distinction as the Legal Adviser for Secretary of State James Baker, has opined that the Legal Adviser's responsibility should be "to use [the] best legal skills to reach correct legal decisions that [give the client] the most legal options" for reaching the *client's* desired goal. I share Mr. Williamson's opinion.

President Trump and Secretary Rubio's policies, orders, and directives are crystal clear. The Department must champion core American interests and always put America and American citizens first. To that end, it has been tasked with defending American sovereignty and protecting the rule of law by enforcing our immigration laws. This means, among other things, excluding or removing aliens,

including student visa holders, who violate our laws, who preach or call for sectarian violence, for overthrowing or replacing the culture on which our constitutional Republic stands, or who provide advocacy, aid, or support for foreign terrorists such as the bestial perpetrators of the October 7 atrocities. The Department has also been charged with securing better national and economic security results for our citizens by restoring commercial statecraft as a foreign policy priority. If confirmed as the Legal Adviser, I will work with my career and political colleagues to provide the best legal advice and counsel to get these things done.

If confirmed, this would be the second time I have served as a cabinet agency's general counsel. During the first Trump Administration, after stints at the Departments of the Treasury, Agriculture, and Justice, I was the acting General Counsel of the Department of Education. There, among other things, I worked closely and collaboratively with career and political attorneys, Department of Justice colleagues, other federal agency partners, and Congressional Members and staff to expose and combat malign foreign influence in the U.S. higher education industry. We uncovered approximately 20,000 previously unreported foreign transactions totaling over \$17 billion, facilitated multiple law enforcement actions, and amplified Congressional oversight. Our work was lawful and effective and put America and American citizens first. If confirmed, I will bring that same energy, commitment, and collaborative ethos to my work at the Department of State.

In January, Secretary Rubio appeared before you and affirmed that we need a strong and confident America that engages in the world while putting our core national interests above all else. President Trump was elected to keep a promise of a strong America that promotes peace abroad and security and prosperity here at home; therefore, Secretary Rubio has pledged that every dollar we spend, every program we fund, and every policy we pursue must make America safer, stronger, and more prosperous. If confirmed, under my leadership, the Office of the Legal Adviser will provide the advice and counsel that the Secretary needs to help the Department honor this pledge. To do so, we will carefully study the facts of each case and rigorously test and apply the applicable law. We will be faithful to the Constitution and the controlling Supreme Court precedent. And we will do our work with excellence, honor, and integrity.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your questions.